

## HOPING

The voice of God echoes in the depths of the human heart

(Vatican II, Gaudium et Spes, 16)

*We have turned to the text and then to life. Awakened by the Word we turn again towards the Lord. Read the text again. Reflect and share on **some** of the following:*

- From our reflection on this Gospel text, what prayer now rises in your heart?
- What particular people or situations have you been reminded of that you now wish to place before God in prayer.
- What are your hopes in these closing weeks of 2020?  
What do you want to say to the Lord about these hopes?

### Closing Prayer:

We gather our prayer together  
as we say: Our Father . . .

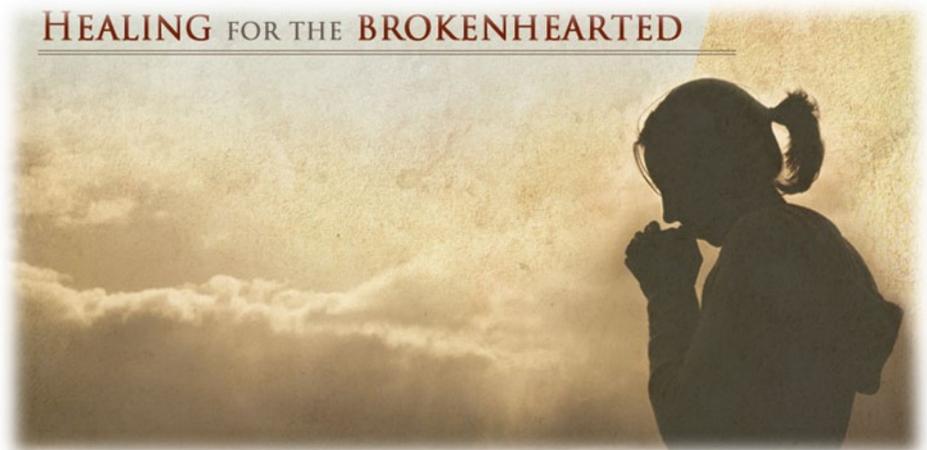


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# Hearing Happening Hoping

Keeping AWAKE with  
Scripture this Advent

Week 3 ~ Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11



**The Word of God comes to us to awaken our hearts. We begin by praying:** God our Father, source of all light, you have sent your Son into the world, to reveal yourself to all your children. Send your Spirit upon us now, that we may meet Jesus in the Word that comes from you. May we come to know him, may we come to love him more deeply and so be drawn closer to the happiness of your Kingdom. Amen.

### Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD God has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn.

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of justice, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause justice and praise to spring up before all the nations.

**"Some want to keep the Gospel so disembodied that it does not get involved at all in the world it must save. Christ is now in history. Christ is in the womb of the people. Christ is now bringing about the new heaven and the new earth." (+ Oscar Romero)**

### HEARING ~ *Speak Lord, your servants are listening!* You have the words of eternal life!

We read the passage 2-3 times. Reflect and share on some of the following:

1. What words resonate with you? What puzzles you? What disturbs you?
2. Why does God anoint this person? How does this person respond to this anointing?
3. On whose side is God in this passage?
4. What does God want in this passage?



### HAPPENING ~ Read the quotation from

**Oscar Romero on the page opposite. Now, we read the text again, reflecting on where we see it happening, coming alive, 'embodied' in our lives and our world, using some of the following questions.**

1. "...he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed..." Who are the oppressed now, at this time? Who is bringing good news to those oppressed?
2. Where have we witnessed heart—break during this time of COVID? Who is binding up the broken-hearted?
3. "For as the earth brings forth its shoots..." Can we see places where new life is springing up, in spite of suffering?
4. "my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation". When have we experienced God's saving love, bringing us through difficulty or pain in the past? How does this experience of God speak to me now? Who do we know who radiates confidence in God's saving love?

